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BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RE: *U.S. Patent Application Entitled: ASSAY FOR TOXIN INDUCED NEURONAL
DEGENERATION AND VIABILITY IN C. ELEGANS - Randy D. Blakely, Richard Nass
and David M. Miller (Client Ref. VU0135)*

Commissioner:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a 71-page patent specification including 100 claims and an abstract. Also included are Figures 1A-B to 6A-D on 6 sheets. The specification and drawings constitute the application of Randy D. Blakely, Richard Nass and David M. Miller for the captioned invention.

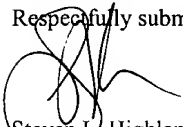
Also transmitted herewith is a diskette containing the computer-readable form of those sequences in the specification, a Statement as Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f), and a separate paper copy of the sequence listing.

Please note that this application is filed without an inventors' Declaration and Assignment, a Declaration Claiming Small Entity Status, a Power of Attorney, and filing fees. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) and (f), the Applicants request the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicants request that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f) be sent to the undersigned Applicants' representative.

Commissioner for Patents
June 22, 2001
Page 2

Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Highlander", written over a circular stamp.

Steven L. Highlander
Reg. No. 37,642

SH:SF
Encl.

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